

SALTON SEA TEST BASE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND



FACT SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

INTRODUCTION

This is the tenth fact sheet in a monthly series designed to inform the interested public about the U.S. Navy's Installation Restoration Program at the Salton Sea Test Base (SSTB). Information on many topics related to this program have been presented in previous fact sheets and are available at the information repositories or by contacting one of the individuals

listed on the back. This fact sheet provides an overview of the investigation and cleanup process the Navy was required to follow before the property could be considered suitable for transfer. Thanks to the hard work of Navy employees, regulatory agency representatives, community members, and contractors, SSTB will be formally closed and transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) this year.

Ultimate Goal = Environmentally Safe Site

The Navy's goal is to transfer property to the BLM and USFWS that does not present a risk to human health and/or the environment. Areas having the potential for contamination from past military activities were identified at SSTB. Before property transfer can be made, all cleanup action necessary to protect human health and the environment at these areas must be completed or determined.

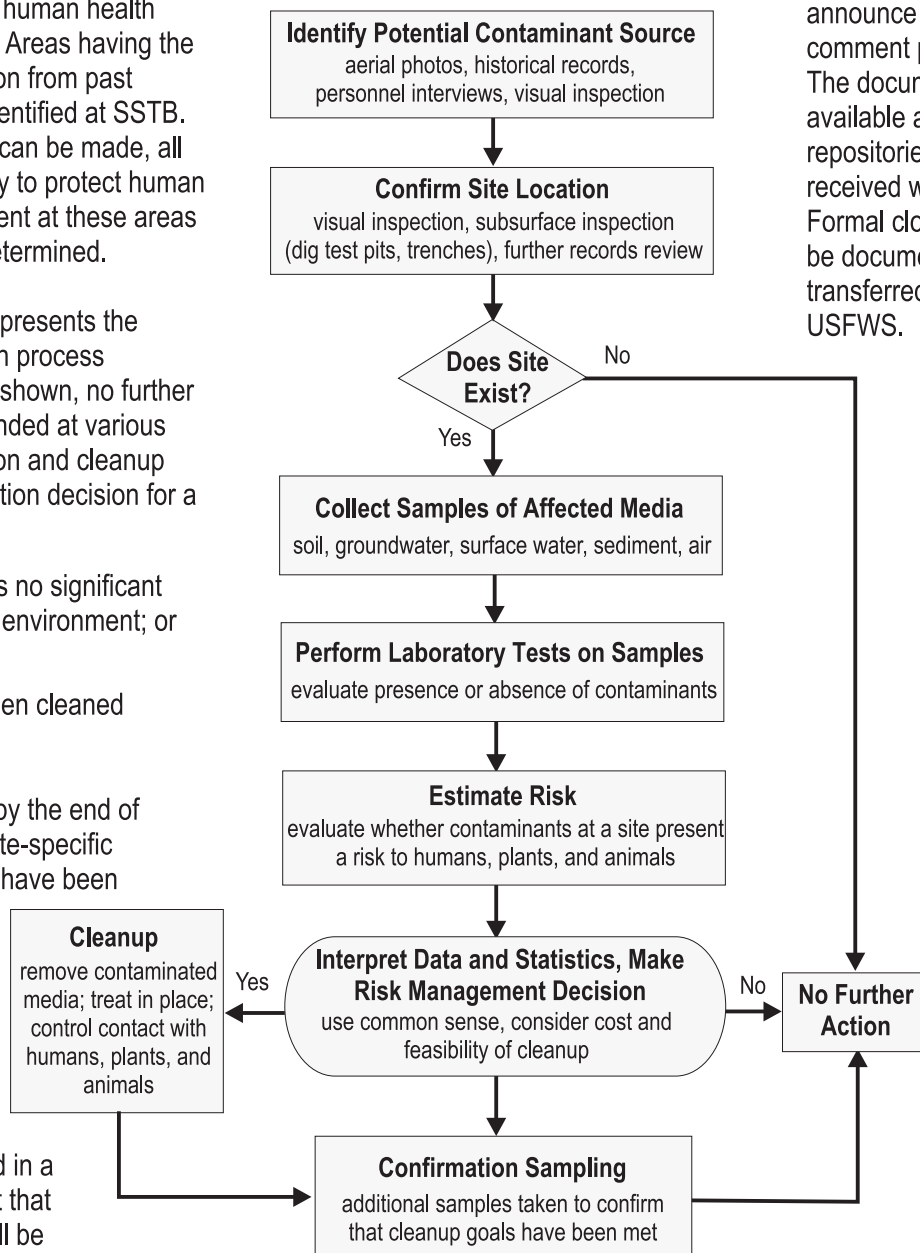
The diagram to the right presents the environmental restoration process conducted at SSTB. As shown, no further action may be recommended at various stages of this investigation and cleanup process. A no further action decision for a site is made when:

- investigation indicates no significant risk to humans or the environment; or when
- contamination has been cleaned up.

It is anticipated that by the end of Summer 1997, all site-specific cleanup actions will have been

completed*. A decision for no further action can then be made for the base as a whole. This decision, which will be made by the project cleanup team, will be summarized in a "Decision Document". At that time, a public meeting will be

Investigation and Cleanup Process Flowchart



held to provide an overview of the Decision Document and to announce the start of a 30-day comment period on the document. The document will be made available at the information repositories. All public comments received will be addressed. Formal closure of SSTB can then be documented and the property transferred to the BLM and USFWS.

* The Navy is currently pursuing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the BLM in the event that the environmental activities are not completed before formal base closure. This would include monitoring of natural and cultural resources during ordnance removal activities. The MOA would document that the Navy agrees to complete all required activities after the property has been transferred to the BLM.

RAB Update

The SSTB Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) met on 19 February at the West Shores Senior Citizens' Center. The meeting was very informative and included several presentations on the planned reuse of the property. Also discussed was the draft Base Realignment and Closure Plan (BCP) 1997 Update. BCPs are summary and planning documents developed by the project team and provided to Washington D.C. every March to keep officials informed of the restoration process at each closing base. The next RAB meeting will be held in April at the Seniors' Center at 7:00 p.m. A date will be announced when one is set. The general public is invited to attend these meetings.

Information Repositories for the SSTB cleanup project have been established at two locations in the area so that the local community has the opportunity to review project documents and reports:

Salton City Library

2098 Frontage Road (Hwy 86)
Salton City, CA (619) 394-4446

Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri
8:00 AM - NOON
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Spencer Library Media Center

Imperial Valley College, Aten Road/Hwy 111
Imperial, CA (619) 355-6377

Hours: Mon-Thur: 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Fri: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sat: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
(except holidays)

In addition, documents, reports, and Restoration Advisory Board meeting minutes and agendas are available at the reading room of the Salton City Spa and RV Park in Salton City. Please contact Ms. Shirley Lee Palmer at (619) 394-4333 for hours.

For More Information

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Thank you!

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INSIDE:

Understanding Site Closure